conflict within the framework of the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka.

Report on Tragedy with Indian Pilgrims at Mecca

327. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a detailed report over the twin tragedies stampede and a blaze on 2nd July at Mecca in which Indian Pilgrims were involved;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide necessary assistance to the victims and their families?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 1st July, 1990 fire brokeout in tented encampment for Haj pilgrims at Mina. Out of a total of 7000 tents destroyed, 1500 tents were those of Indian pilgrims. Fortunately all pilgrims were out to Arafat and none was hurt. The authorities quickly removed the debris and erected new tents before the return of pilgrims. It is learnt that most probably the cause of fire was an overturned kerosene stove or short circuit in the electricity system. However, no official version has been given by Saudi Government.

In the morning of 2nd July, 1990 there was a stampede in the Al Muaisem tunnel in Mina. The Saudi authonities have announced that 1426 pilgrims of various nationalities were killed; there has been no announcement as yet about the number of injured or their nationality-wise break up. According to official Saudi sources, 10 Indian nationals were killed, of whom 2 are unknown; 3 of the persons killed had gone for Haj under arrangements made by the Central Haj Commitee and other five Indian nationals had travelled on their own.

(c) All necessary assistance was promptly rendered to the Indian pilgrims whose tents caught fire. In the case of the tunnel tragedy, Govt. has been in contact with the State Haj Committees in order to render assistance.

Fire in the camp of Indian Haj Pilgrims at Mecca

328. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a devastating fire broke-out in the Indian tented encampment for Indian Haj Pilgrims at Mina in Mecca on July 2, 1990;

(b) if so, the cause of the fire;

(c) the name of the firm which supplied the above tents; and

(d) whether the Government of India have made any enquiry about the above fire accident?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes Sir. On 1st July, 1990 fire broke out in the tented encampment for Haj pilgrims at Mina. Out of the 7000 tents destroyed, 1500 tents were those of Indian pilgrims. Fortunately none of our pilgrims was hurt.

(b) to (d) Government of India have made enquiries with the concerned Saudi authorities regarding the fire accident, who have made no official statement on the cause. It is understood that the tents were supplied by the South Asian Mossassa, an establishment under the Saudi Government, and that while the precise cause of the fire could not be ascertained it was most probably due to an overturned stove or short circuit in the electricity system.

Expiry of the lease of the residence of Indian High Commissioner in UK

329. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to renew the lease of the residence of

the Indian High Commissioner at London which had expired in April, 1990 for a further period of 60 years;

(b) what is the consideration that the British Government is asking for such a renewal;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commission is paying only a ground rent of 585 pound sterling per year;

(d) whether the lease of the land given to the residence of the British High Commissioner has also expired in the year 1989; and

(e) what steps are taken by Government to renew these two leases of property without allowing them to sour the relationship of the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The Crown Estate Commissioners who own the property at 9-KPG, London, where the Indian High Commissioner's residence is located have furnished their terms for the renewal of the lease. The Government of India are examining the issue in the context of the renewal of the lease of the British High Commissioner's residence at 2 Rajaji Marg, New Delhi and are exploring the possibility of arriving at a reciprocal arrangement whereby we can retain Indian High Commissioner's residence in London and the British can retain the British High Commissioner's residence in New Delhi.

(b) The Crown Estate Commissioners have proposed that the lease for 9-KPG can be renewed for a period of 60 years on payment of premium of Pounds 18 million and a ground rent of Pounds 10,000 per annum to be increased to Pounds 20,000 per annum in the 22nd year and to Pounds 30,000 per annum in the 42nd year. The Govt. considers this demand quite excessive.

(c) Till the expiry of the lease on April 4, 1990, initially signed in 1949, the Indian High Commission was paying an annual rent of Pounds 585 (a premium of Pounds 60,000 was paid in 1949 for a 42 year lease).

(d) Yes, Sir. The lease expired on 31-12-1989.

(e) The Government hopes that a reciprocal arrangement whereby we can retain Indian High Commissioner's residence in London and the British can retain the British High Commissioner's residence in New Delhi could be arrived at.

330. *[Transferred to the 10th August, 1990]*

बंगला देश के शरणार्थी

331. **श्री शिव प्रताप मिश्र** : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान और चालू वर्ष में अब तक बांग्लादेश से भारत में आये शरणार्थियों की धर्मवार अर्थात् हिन्दू, बौद्ध, ईसाई और इस्लाम धर्मों के मानने वाले शरणार्थियों की संख्या कितनी है ;

(ख) प्रत्येक राज्य में इनकी संख्या कितनी-कितनी है ; और

(ग) उन्हें स्वदेश वापसी भेजने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाये गये है ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुबोध कान्त सहाय) : (क) से (ग) बंगला देश के जो राष्ट्रिक बिना वैध यात्रा कागजात के 25 मार्च, 1971 के बाद भारत आए उन्हें घुसपैठी माना जाता है। घुसपैठ के बाद वे भूमिगत हो जाते हैं या स्थानीय जनता के साथ मिल जाते हैं। जब कि इस बात की हमें जानकारी है कि इस प्रकार के घुसपैठिये यहां हैं। फिर भी उनकी संख्या का निर्धारण करना संभव नहीं है। बताया गया है कि बंगला देश से कुछ चकमा आदिवासी भी त्रिपुरा राज्य में गए है। उन्हें वापस भेजन के लिए विदेश मंत्रालय लगातार बंगला देश सरकार से संपर्क बनाए हुए है।